



Role and structure of the Council of Europe

#EBDGrifik

	Council of Europe	European Union
Established	1949	1957
Member states	46	27
Population	677 million	448 million
Flag		
Anthem	Ode to Joy	Ode to Joy



! Common origin

Both, the European Movement and the Council of Europe stem from the Congress of Europe (1948) in The Hague

Objectives of the Council of Europe



Promotion of human rights, democracy and rule of law in Europe

Structure

Statutory bodies

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)



Composition:
Representatives of National Parliaments



Chair:
Theodoros Rousopoulos

Role



Elections: e.g. Secretary General and Judges of the European Court of Human Rights



Promoting dialogue, providing ideas and advice to the Committee of Ministers on conventions



Election observation and monitoring of the Member States

Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe



Composition:
Ministers of Foreign Affairs



Chair: November 2024 - May 2025
Xavier Bettel, Deputy Prime Minister of Luxemburg & Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade & Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs

Role



Adoption of binding agreements
Example: European Convention on Human Rights (1950)



Adoption of the budget and programme of activities



Promoting close cooperation through partial agreements
Example: Venice Commission providing constitutional advice to states

European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)



Ensures compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights

Judges complaints by persons and states relating to violations of the rights recognized by the Convention

Important to EM Germany

- Strengthen the Council of Europe's democratic DNA and thus fully utilise its potential as a workshop for democracy in preparation for EU membership
- Advance talks on the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights
- Resolutely pursue the implementation of the decisions taken at the Reykjavik Summit
- Establish a special international tribunal to hold Russia accountable for human rights crimes in Ukraine
- Political and financial strengthening of the Council of Europe's Youth Department
- Consistent implementation of the Istanbul Convention by the Council of Europe

Priorities of the Luxembourgian Presidency

- I) Rule of law and democracy
 - i) Promotion of a culture of democratic participation in Europe
 - ii) Defence of key actors (e.g. lawyers, journalists, etc.) who represent and defend the rule of law and democracy
- II) Promoting mutual respect and understanding
 - i) Raising awareness of the realities and rights of people from socially disadvantaged groups
 - ii) In particular, promoting gender equality and strengthening the rights of children and young people
- III) Strengthening European coexistence through culture and sport
 - i) Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention
 - ii) Promoting sport as a means of defending and upholding fundamental rights

Secretariat



Under the leadership of the Secretary General Alain Berset